

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1                   1.     A method for assessing susceptibility of systemic lupus erythematosus in  
2 an individual to be tested comprising comparing  
3                   (a)     a test polymorphic pattern comprising at least one polymorphic position  
4 within an FcγRIIB promoter gene of the individual, with  
5                   (b)     a reference polymorphic pattern derived from a population of individuals  
6 having systemic lupus erythematosus; and  
7                   concluding whether the individual is susceptible to development of systemic  
8 lupus erythematosus.

1                   2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the reference polymorphic pattern  
2 comprises at least one polymorphism.

1                   3.     The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises a C  
2 residue at position -385.

1                   4.     The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -385  
2 C/C.

1                   5.     The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises an A  
2 residue at position -119.

1                   6.     The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -119  
2 T/A.

1                   7.     The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -119  
2 A/A.

1                    8.     The method of claim 1, wherein the reference polymorphic pattern  
2 comprises at least two polymorphisms.

1                    9.     The method of claim 8 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -  
2 385C/C and -119 T/A.

1                    10.    An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human  
2 FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic position -385 in the promoter  
3 region.

1                    11.    A nucleic acid as defined in claim 10 wherein the sequence at the  
2 polymorphic position in the promoter region is -385C.

1                    12.    An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a  
2 nucleic acid as defined in claim 11.

1                    13.    An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human  
2 FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic position -119 in the promoter  
3 region.

1                    14.    A nucleic acid as defined in claim 13 wherein the sequence at the  
2 polymorphic position in the promoter region is -119A.

1                    15.    An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a  
2 nucleic acid as defined in claim 14.

1                    16.    An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human  
2 FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic positions -385 and -119 in the  
3 promoter region.

1                   17.    A nucleic acid as defined in claim 16 wherein the sequences at the  
2 polymorphic position in the promoter region are -385C and -119A.

1                   18.    An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a  
2 nucleic acid as defined in claim 17.

1                   19     A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing  
2 systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence  
3 determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to the polymorphic positions in the  
4 human FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic positions are -385 and -119 in the promoter  
5 region.

1                   20.    A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing  
2 systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence  
3 determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to a polymorphic position in the human  
4 FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic positions is -385 in the promoter region.

1                   21.    A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing  
2 systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence  
3 determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to a polymorphic position in the human  
4 FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic position is -119 in the promoter region.